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Latinos in Holyoke, Massachusetts

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Holyoke | Massachusetts

by Daniel W. Vasquez, Research Associate

The Mauricio Gastón Institute of the University of Massachusetts Boston conducts research on and for the Latino population. A goal is to generate the kind of information and analysis necessary to develop sound public policy, and to improve Latino participation in the policy making process. In an effort to present vital information about Latinos to diverse audiences, the Gastón Institute has produced a series of basic demographic profiles for the states and selected cities of New England, based on the United States Census 2000.

Census 2000 data include changes in the way people were counted. The most significant change is to allow persons to select more than one race, creating a new multiracial category of "two or more races," but meaning people may not be included in the race with which they most identify. There was, however, no way to choose more than one ethnicity; one must choose either Latino or not. Throughout this profile, numbers reflect Latinos of all races, or non-Latinos by race, with persons of two or more races counted separately. All categorizations are based solely on self-identification. All of this complicates comparisons between 1990 and 2000 data. However, the concepts are similar enough to make trends and patterns clear.

In Holyoke, the general population changes from 1990 to 2000 were similar to national and state trends. The population of people of color — African Americans, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders — grew at a higher rate than did the population of non-Hispanic Whites, which actually shrank (see table 1). The total population of Holyoke decreased by 8.8% and its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 2,912 or 21.5%, with Blacks or African-Americans, American Indians, and "Some Other Race" all experiencing declines in population. Latinos now represent 41.4% of the population, an increase of 10 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Holyoke has the sixth largest population of Latinos in Massachusetts and the 16th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Holyoke ranks third in the state.

Table 1

Holyoke - Growth by Ethnicity							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Hispanic or Latino	16,485	41.4	13,573	31.1	2,912	21.5	10.3
White	21,508	54.0	28,519	65.3	-7,011	-24.6	-11.3
Black or African American	1,016	2.6	1,145	2.6	-129	-11.3	-0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	57	0.1	77	0.2	-20	-26.0	0.0
Asian ^a	317	0.8	314	0.7	11	3.5	0.1
Pacific Islander ^a	8	0.0					
Some other race	47	0.1	76	0.2	-29	-38.2	-0.1
Two or more races ^b	400	1.0					
Total	39,838		43,704		-3,866	-8.8	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

Note: Growth figures will not balance due to the new multiracial category.

^a 'Asian and Pacific Islander' was split for the 2000 census. Growth and changes reflect combined total.

^b There was no equivalent category in the 1990 census.

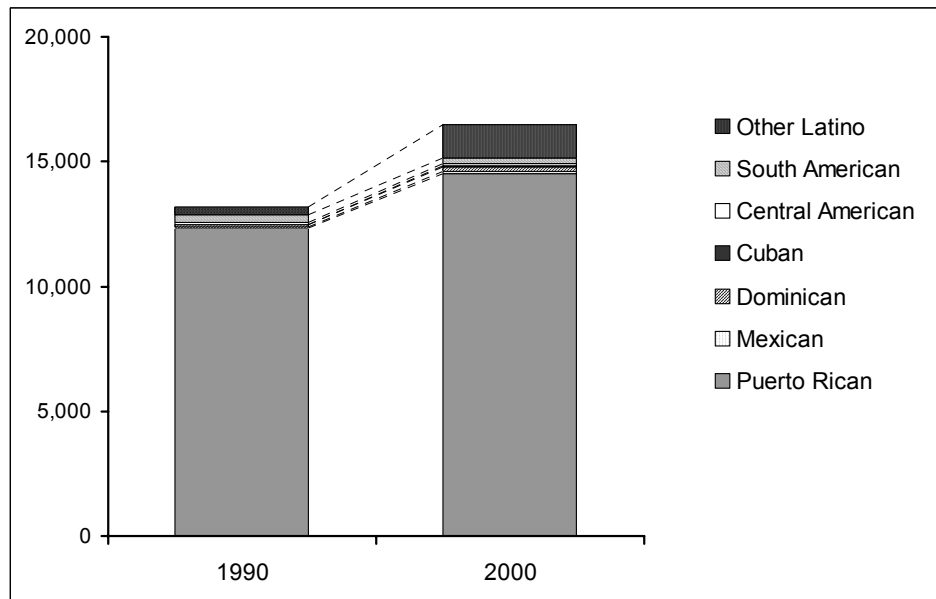
Table 2

Holyoke - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	16,485		13,200		3,285	24.9
Mexican	85	0.5	58	0.4	27	46.6
Puerto Rican	14,539	88.2	12,343	93.5	2,196	17.8
Cuban	58	0.4	18	0.1	40	222.2
Dominican Republic	168	1.0	52	0.4	116	223.1
Other Central American	57	0.3	89	0.7	-32	-36.0
Colombian	190	1.2	171	1.3	19	11.1
Other South American	44	0.3	125	0.9	-81	-64.8
Other Hispanic or Latino	1,344	8.2	344	2.6	1,000	290.7

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(b).

^a 1990 figures for nationality are from sample data only and differ from population counts.¹

Figure 1
Holyoke - Growth and Change of the Latino Population



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

All Latino national-origin groups grew significantly between 1990¹ and 2000. The largest group in Holyoke is Puerto Rican, at 88.2%, followed by “Other” Latinos and Colombians. “Other” Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 290.7%, a trend seen across the U.S. (see table 2 and figure 1). A person is counted as “Other” if they write in “Spanish” or give an answer that can't be assigned to a particular nationality (such as “Latino”), or if they identify more than one origin, or leave the answer blank. Future scholarly studies may better describe the composition of this category. The detailed breakdown of Central and South Americans is available at the Census Bureau’s American Fact Finder service, online at: factfinder.census.gov.

Table 3

Holyoke - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	4,823		3,711		1,112	30.0	
Owners	630	13.1	227	6.1	403	177.5	6.9
Renters	4,193	86.9	3,484	93.9	709	20.4	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 86.9% versus 13.1%, although there has been a 6.9% increase in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). Still, this is much lower than the state average of 61.7%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most Latinos, 78.5%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children

represent 20.5% of Latino-headed households, slightly less than the Massachusetts average of 23.3%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 38.6% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.5%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

Holyoke - Family Structure						
	2000		1990		Growth	Change
Latino Headed Households	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	in Percent
Families:	3,788	78.5	3,112	83.9	21.7	-5.3
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	990	20.5	764	20.6	29.6	-0.1
Female Head, with children	1,862	38.6	1,792	48.3	3.9	-9.7
Male Head, with children	205	4.3	152	4.1	34.9	0.2
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	415	8.6	207	5.6	100.5	3.0
Single, no children	316	6.6	197	5.3	60.4	1.2
Non-Family Household	1,035	21.5	599	16.1	72.8	5.3
Total Households	4,823		3,711		30.0	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

^a Own or related children under 18 only.

Data Sources:

All available at American Fact Finder [online service]: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

U.S. Census Bureau:

2000: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) 100% Data.

1990(a): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 1 (STF1) 100% Data.

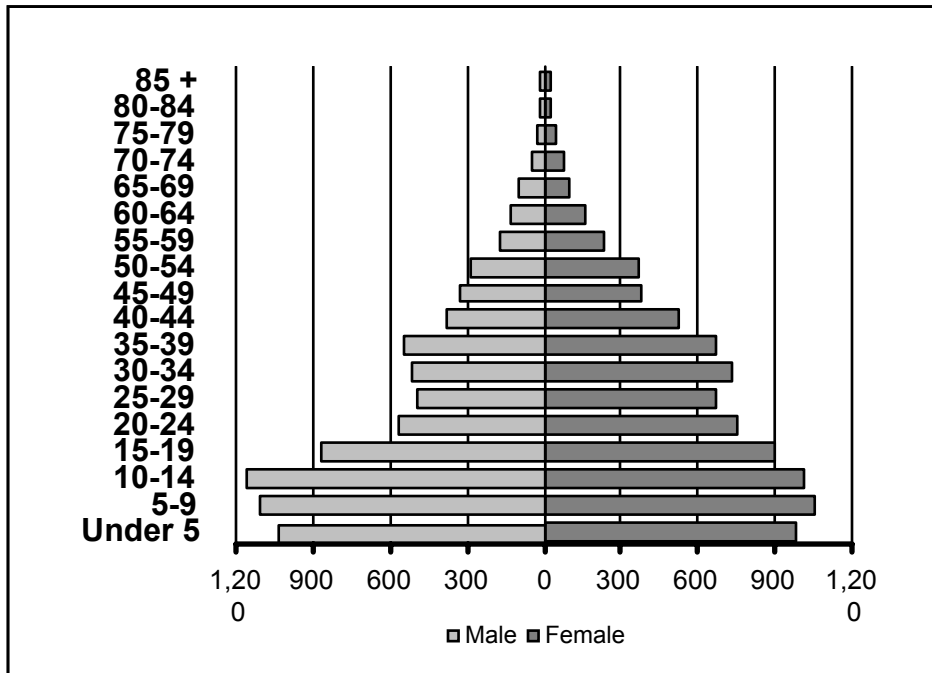
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

1992: 1990 Census of Population: General Population Characteristics. Washington DC: GPO.

Notes:

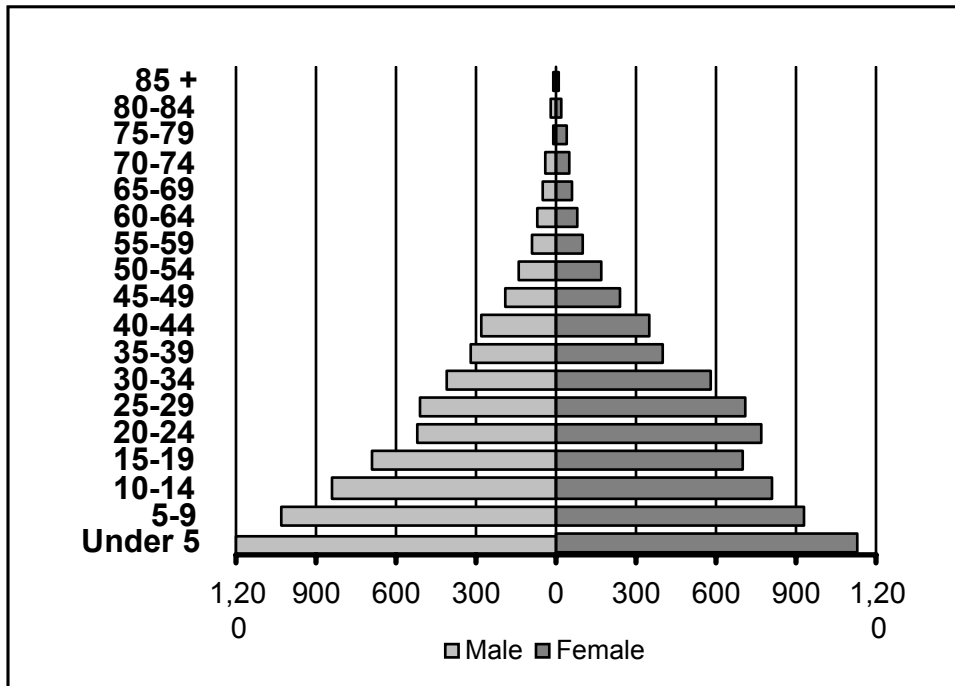
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. For example there is a 4.5% difference in the total number of Latinos in Massachusetts. There are sources of error in any census or survey, however the estimates here are accurate enough to note trends and patterns.

Figure 2
Holyoke - Age Profile 2000



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Figure 3
Holyoke - Age Profile 1990



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

The age composition of Latinos in Holyoke has changed. There has been an increase in virtually all age groups, but especially among those in the middle years. Even though there are many more children, the overall Latino population is maturing (see figures 2 and 3).

While the Latino population in Holyoke and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 49.3% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 54.1% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 20.4 is much younger than the overall Massachusetts median age of 36.5. Women still tend to be older than men, but the gap closed during the 1990s. In addition to becoming relatively older, both Latinos and Latinas became less concentrated in the 20-29 age group (see tables 6 and 7).

Table 5

Holyoke - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	4,185	25.4	4,299	31.7	-2.7
10-19	3,937	23.9	3,038	22.4	29.6
20-29	2,480	15.0	2,514	18.5	-1.4
30-39	2,460	14.9	1,704	12.6	44.4
40-49	1,607	9.7	1,068	7.9	50.5
50-59	1,061	6.4	496	3.7	113.9
60-69	486	2.9	259	1.9	87.6
70 and over	269	1.6	195	1.4	37.9
Total	16,485		13,573		21.5
Median Age	20.4		18.0		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Table 6

Holyoke - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	2,148	27.6	2,236	34.8	-3.9
10-19	2,026	26.1	1,529	23.8	32.5
20-29	1,056	13.6	1,038	16.1	1.7
30-39	1,064	13.7	730	11.4	45.8
40-49	702	9.0	471	7.3	49.0
50-59	452	5.8	226	3.5	100.0
60-69	222	2.9	118	1.8	88.1
70 and over	104	1.3	83	1.3	25.3
Total	7,774		6,431		20.9
Median Age	18.1		16.0		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Table 7

Holyoke - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	2,037	23.4	2,063	28.9	-1.3
10-19	1,911	21.9	1,509	21.1	26.6
20-29	1,424	16.3	1,476	20.7	-3.5
30-39	1,396	16.0	974	13.6	43.3
40-49	905	10.4	597	8.4	51.6
50-59	609	7.0	270	3.8	125.6
60-69	264	3.0	141	2.0	87.2
70 and over	165	1.9	112	1.6	47.3
Total	8,711		7,142		22.0
Median Age	22.5		20.0		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.